

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-01 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

IO-03 DLOS-03 COA-01 DRC-01 /068 W

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R 031645Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4041

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 4264

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU

SUBJ: VIEWS OF PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS ON AEGEAN MATTERS

REF ATHENS 4253, 4254

MILITARY ADDRESSEES FOR POLADS

1. SUMMARY. ON JULY 2 AMBASSADOR MET WITH PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS FOR TOUR D'HORIZON. CONVERSATION COVERED VARIETY OF ISSUES INCLUDING MODERNIZATION OF GREEK ARMED FORCES, SOUDA AIRBASE AGREEMENT, CYPRUS, AEGEAN ISSUES AND OTTAWA NATO DECLARATION. SEPARATE REPORTING CABLES COVER MILITARY MATTERS NATO, AND CYPRUS. END SUMMARY.

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2. I OPENED COVERSAATION BY NOTING THAT ON THE EVE OF

OUR GREAT NATIONAL HOLIDAY, JULY 4, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED BY MY CALL AND THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD EXTENDED FORMAL GREETING TO THE U.S. ON THE OCCASION OF THE 4TH OF JULY ANNIVERSARY, HE WISHED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OCCASION TO REPEAT THESE GOOD WISHES TO ME PERSONALLY.

3. TURNING TO CURRENT AEGEAN ISSUES, INCLUDING DISPUTED AREAS AS WELL AS THE QUESTION OF 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, I POINTED OUT IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING EYE ON MAIN BALL, WHICH WAS THREAT OF SOVIET COMMUNISM, PARTICULARLY AGAINST NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK. IT WAS VITAL FOR GREECE AND TURKEY TO WORK TOGETHER AS FRIENDLY ALLIES AND TO RESOLVE ANY DISPUTES THEY MIGHT HAVE BY PEACEFUL MEANS. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I SAID I HOPED THAT GREECE AND TURKEY WOULD IN FACT SIT DOWN AND TALK OVER ALL THEIR OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS AND ALSO SEEK WAYS TO ENSURE POSITIVE COOPERATION IN SUCH AREAS AS TOURISM, FISHERIES, PRIVATE INVESTMENT, ETC. I NOTED HOW MUCH GREEKS HAD TO CONTRIBUTE TO BROAD ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. I EXPRESSED PERSONAL SURPRISE THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD REACTED IN SUCH STRONG NEGATIVE TERMS TO TURKISH PROPOSAL FOR SETTING UP BILATERAL COMMITTEES. I OBSERVED GOT PROPOSAL SHOULD HAVE BEEN PRESUMED SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION THROUGH GREEK COUNTERPROPOSALS. AFTER ALL, ESTABLISHMENT OF BILATERAL COMMITTEES WAS A WELL KNOWN PRACTICE; I CITED IN THIS CONNECTION PERIODIC BILATERAL ECONOMIC MEETINGS US HELD WITH JAPAN, AS WELL AS JOINT COMMITTEES WE HAVE SET UP WITH RUSSIANS TO DISCUSS AND DEVELOP MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

5. PRESIDENT SAID HE DID NOT LIKE ECEVIT PROPOSAL ON COMMITTEES BECAUSE HE WAS CERTAIN THERE COULD BE NO AGREEMENT AT ANY TECHNICAL LEVEL SO THAT FINALLY THE ISSUES WOULD GET BACK TO THE PRIME MINISTER LEVEL. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH A PROCESS WOULD SHARPEN

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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES RATHER THAN HELP TO RESOLVE THEM. HE ADDED THAT TURKISH PROPOSAL PROVOCATIVE BECAUSE OF MANNER IN WHICH IT INCLUDED QUESTION OF MINORITIES. AFTER ALL, THAT QUESTION WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN SETTLED BY THE TREATY OF LAUSANNE WHICH TURKS VIOLATED FLAGRANTLY SO THAT GREEK POPULATION OF ISTANBUL HAS FALLEN DRASTICALLY AND ON TENEDOS AND IMBROS GREEKS HAVE BECOME MINORITIES WHEREAS THEY HAD ONCE

FORMED OVERWHELMING POPULATION OF THOSE ISLANDS. ON THE  
OTHER HAND, TURKISH POPULATION IN WESTERN THRACE UNDER  
GREEKS REMAINED LARGELY INTACT.

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CINCUSAFE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 4264

LIMDIS

6. AT THIS POINT PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS LAUNCHED LONG,  
CLEAR AND ADAMANT STATEMENT OF GREEK RIGHTS IN AEGEAN  
AND COMPLETE UNWILLINGNESS OF GREEK GOVERNMENT AND ITS  
PEOPLE TO ALLOW THE TURKS TO SEEK TO EXPLOIT WHAT WAS  
RIGHTFULLY GREEK. AMONG SEVERAL ANALOGIES HE DREW THAT  
OF AN INDIVIDUAL STEALING ANOTHER'S WALLET. SINCE  
DISCOVERY OF AEGEAN OIL, TURKS HAD MOVED UNILATERALLY INTO  
AN AREA WHICH CLEARLY BELONGED TO GREECE UNDER INTERNATIONAL  
LAW, INCLUDING LOS CONVENTION OF 1958. HE CALLED PARTICULAR  
ATTENTION TO DEMIREL'S RECENT STATEMENT, WHICH GREEKS  
FOUND HIGHLY PROVOCATIVE, THAT GREEK ISLANDS OF SAMOS,  
LESBOS AND CHIOS RESTED ON TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF. HE

ALSO MENTIONED PRESS CAMPAIGN EARLIER IN THE YEAR IN ISTANBUL AT WHICH TIME CRIES WERE MADE FOR ANNEXATION OF GREEK ISLANDS, AS WELL AS WESTERN THRACE AND MACEDONIA.

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7. PRESIDENT STRESSED GREECE WAS A PEACELOVING COUNTRY. IT DID NOT WANT TO FIGHT BUT THROUGHOUT ITS THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF HISTORY IT HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS READINESS UNDER GREAT ODDS TO DEFEND ITS RIGHTS. HE CITED IN THIS CONNECTION THERMOPYLAE, SALAMIS AND THE FASCIST ATTACK ON ALBANIA. HE REALIZED THAT PRESENT GOG MIGHT NOT BE VERY POPULAR BUT AS HAD HAPPENED DURING METAXAS PERIOD, HE KNEW THAT GREEKS, INCLUDING COMMUNISTS, WOULD UNITE COMPLETELY TO DEFEND GREECE AGAINST ANY TURKISH ENCROACHMENT ON THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS. HE SAID THAT IF TURKS DRILL ON SHELF OF GREEK ISLANDS THAT MEANT WAR.

8. I EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING GREEK POSITION BUT SAID THAT I CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT VIOLENCE AND WAR WOULD SERVE NO ONE'S PURPOSE AND THAT A SOLUTION SHOULD BE SOUGHT BY PEACEFUL MEANS. I HOPED THAT DURING CARACAS CONFERENCE GREEK AND TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES WOULD FIND OCCASION TO DISCUSS THESE MUTUAL PROBLEMS BILATERALLY, AS WELL AS MORE BROADLY IN THE CONFERENCE PROPER. I NOTED OTHER COUNTRIES HAD HAD DIFFERENCES AS GREAT OR GREATER THAN THOSE OF GREECE WITH TURKEY AND PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS HAD BEEN FOUND. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD PROVIDED ELOQUENT EXAMPLES OF WHAT COULD BE DONE TO RESTORE AND PRESERVE PEACE UNDER EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. THE PRESIDENT'S ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT HE HOPED "IN GOD'S NAME," THERE WOULD BE NO WAR, BUT THAT MATTER DID NOT DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THE GREEKS.

9. I CONCLUDED MY COMMENTS BY TELLING PRESIDENT I HAD NOT SEEN HIM FOR SOME TIME ALTHOUGH I HAD BEEN FOLLOWING ON TV HIS TRAVELS AROUND GREECE. HE REPLIED HE HOPED I WOULD FEEL FREE TO CALL ON HIM FREQUENTLY, EVEN ON SHORT NOTICE, FOR COFFEE OR LEMONADE TOGETHER. HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE PEOPLE AND PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES. I FOUND THE PRESIDENT CONSIDERABLY MORE RESPONSIVE THAN DURING EARLIER VISIT. IN FACT HE DOES CONVEY THE BEST IMAGE OF THE ENTIRE GROUP RUNNING THE COUNTRY AT THIS TIME. TASCA

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## Message Attributes

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